

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13-30, 33-46 and 49-58 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 12, 31, 32 and 47-48 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 11, 13, 16, 18, 19, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33-40, 43, 49-54 and 56 are amended.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments: a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth below; and b) do not raise any new issues that require further search and/or consideration. More specifically, the above amendments amend the claims to include allowable subject matter as suggested in the Office Action. Other minor amendments are made for clarity and/or for better punctuation. For example, certain claims have been added to recite a “method” since the allowable features relate to the method. Entry is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action’s indication that claims 1-10 are allowed and that claims 12, 13, 16-26, 32, 34-38, 48 and 50-54 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claim 33 depends from claim 32 and that dependent claim 49 depends from claim 48 and therefore both claims 33 and 49 should also be allowable.

By this Amendment, independent claim 11 is amended to include allowable features of claim 12. Furthermore, each of allowable dependent claims 16, 19 and 25 are rewritten into independent form to include features of previous independent claim 11. Thus, each of independent claims 11, 16, 19 and 25 should be allowed.

Additionally, independent claim 27 is amended to include allowable features of claim 32. Independent claim 27 is also amended to recite a “method” so as to be consistent with allowable claim 32. Still further, each of allowable dependent claims 34 and 35 are rewritten into independent form to include features of previous independent claim 27. Each of independent claims 34 and 35 are also amended to recite a “method” so as to be consistent with allowable claims (such as claim 32). Thus, independent claims 27, 34 and 35 should be allowed.

Still further, independent claim 43 is amended to include allowable features of claim 48. Furthermore, each of allowable dependent claims 50 and 51 are rewritten in independent form to include features of previous independent claim 43. Independent claim 52 is amended to recite a “method” to be consistent with the allowable claims. Accordingly, each of independent claims 43, 50 and 51 should be allowed.

Each of the remaining claims depends from one of the above discussed independent claims and therefore also defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims also recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11, 13-30, 33-46 and 49-58 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place

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the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **David C. Oren**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

- concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and
- please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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